

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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P R 230729 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8479

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4027

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: EARLY OPPOSITION REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

1. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO OPPOSITION PARTY PUBLIC REACTION PRESIDENT' S STATEMENT SETTING FORTH NEW FOREIGN POLICIES. SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT' S SPEECH SPOKESMAN FOR MAJOR OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) TOLD EMBASSY THAT PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AFTERNOON OF JUNE 23 TO CONSIDER NEW POLICY BUT HE NOT CERTAIN MEETING WOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

2. RADIO NEWS REPORTED DISAGREEMENT IN A MORNING MEETING BETWEEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FLOOR LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ON AGENDA FOR ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 25-27. GOVERNMENT PARTY LEADERSHIP WANTED TWO DAYS OF INTERPELLATION OF MINISTERS FOLLOWED ON FINAL DAY OF SESSION BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT PARK' S DECISION ON NEW FOREIGN POLICY. ACCORDING RADIO, OPPOSITION OBJECTED TO SUCH A RESOLUTION CONTENDING THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION EITHER PRO OR CON ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY STATEMENTS WAS " UNCONSTITUTIONAL" .
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3. COMMENT: MANY IN NDP LEADERSHIP SHOULD FAVOR DIRECTION OF NEW POLICY AND HAVE IN PAST FREQUENTLY CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. HOWEVER THERE IS SOME FEAR IN NDP THAT QUICK, UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT WOULD STRENGTHEN POPULAR SUSPICIONS THAT OPPOSITION IS NO DIFFERENT FROM GOVERNMENT PARTY AND IN PRESIDENT' S POCKET. IN DISCUSSING EXPECTED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WITH EMBOFFS YESTERDAY, ONE NDP ASSEMBLYMAN PREDICTED THAT A FEW IN PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD URGE PARTY POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO NEW POLICIES.

4. IN ANY EVENT, BY DELAYING SUPPORTING STATEMENT, EVEN BRIEFLY, AND RAISING DIFFICULTIES WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR A QUICK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT NEXT WEEK, NDP IS PUTTING ITSELF IN POSITION TO BARGAIN WITH GOVERNMENT AND TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF SOME INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION.
HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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